

\*\*\*\*\* R E M A R K \*\*\*\*\*

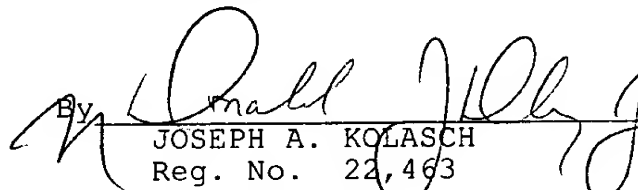
The above amendments to the claims are merely to delete the improper multiple dependencies and place the application into better form prior to examination.

Favorable action on the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. \$1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #34,313  
JOSEPH A. KOLASCH  
Reg. No. 22,463  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

JAK/sas